



PATENT APPLICATION

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re application of

Docket No: Q80067

Jee-hong MIN, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/824,648

Group Art Unit: 2875

Confirmation No.: 7696

Examiner: DZIERZYNSKI, EVAN P.

Filed: April 15, 2004

For: LIGHT GUIDE PANEL WITH OPTICAL DEFLECTOR
AND EDGE-LIGHT TYPE BACKLIGHT SYSTEM

REPLY BRIEF PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 41.41

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 41.41, Appellant respectfully submits this Reply Brief in response to the Examiner's Answer dated September 21, 2007. Entry of this Reply Brief is respectfully requested.

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STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 15-19 are allowed.

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kraft (U.S.

Publication No. 2003/0147259) in view of Umemoto et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,616,289).

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GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The sole ground of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is:

The rejection of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kraft
(U.S. Publication No. 2003/0147259) in view of Umemoto et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,616,289).

ARGUMENT

In the Appeal Brief, Appellant had argued that claim 1 is patentable over Kraft (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0147259) and Umemoto et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,616,289) at least because this combination of references does not teach or suggest “a rod-shaped light source which projects light to the light incident surface”, in combination with the other elements of the claim. Appellant had argued that the Examiner’s proposed combination is improper because Kraft teaches away from this combination, and Appellant had provided reasons to support that argument. In the Examiner’s Answer, the Examiner responded to Appellants arguments. Appellant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s responses to Appellant’s arguments and provides below rebuttals of the Examiner’s responses to arguments.

The Examiner’s Answer states (last full paragraph of page 7):

The office proposes replacing the point light source and the tapered light guide portion of Kraft with the rod-like light source of Umemoto. The object of Kraft’s invention is to have a light source remote to the light guiding and light-emitting zone. In this case, it is within the realm of ordinary skill in the art to replace the point light source and tapered light guide of Kraft with a rod-like source, such as light source of

Umemoto, since removal of the tapered portion of Kraft would require a wide-spread beam for lighting.

Appellant respectfully disagrees with this reasoning.

It is clear that Kraft's disclosure provides light to a tapered portion of a light injection area through light guides or light pipes (see, e.g., paragraph 0038 and Fig. 1). Kraft says: "The subject invention was created to replace fluorescent lighting luminaires or applications with a remote light source device to overcome the space requirements, heat production, maintenance requirements, and application limitations of common light sources." Paragraph 0036, emphasis added. Further, the Examiner admits that, "The object of Kraft's invention is to have a light source remote to the light guiding and light-emitting zone." (Emphasis added.) Appellant submits that "replacing the point light source and the tapered light guide portion of Kraft with the rod-like light source", as proposed by the Examiner, runs counter to the essence of what Kraft is seeking to achieve. While it is true that Kraft contemplates using any light source for light entering the tapered portion, this light would be fed to the tapered portion by light guides or pipes and would be from a source remote to the light panel.

In view of the above, Appellant submits that replacing the point light source and the tapered light guide portion of Kraft with the rod-like light source would destroy the principle of operation on which Kraft is based and would prevent Kraft from achieving the object of his invention, which is to provide a remote light source to overcome the problems associated with non-remote light sources. At least for this reason, and for the reasons set forth in the Appeal

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Brief, Appellant requests the Board not to sustain the rejection of claim 1, and its dependent claims 2-9, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kraft (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0147259) in view of Umemoto et al. Similar reasoning applies to claims 10-14.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons as well as the reasons set forth in Appeal Brief, Appellant respectfully requests that the Board reverse the Examiner's rejections of all claims on Appeal. An early and favorable decision on the merits of this Appeal is respectfully requested.

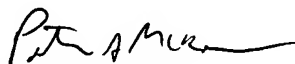
Respectfully submitted,

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